

Tails Are Not for Pulling

by Elizabeth Verdick

A simple words and delightful illustrations book, for parents and caregivers, which teaches the basics of kindness to animals: careful handling, awareness, safety, and respect.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you have a pet?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if the dog and cat get along with each other?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Tails Are Not for Pulling*

- pulling: to tug at or jerk somebody or something
- squeak: to make a short high-pitched sound or cry
- chirp: a short high-pitched sound, made by a bird
- fur: the soft coat of hair on an animal
- nuzzling: to rub or push something gently with the nose
- warn: to tell somebody about something that might cause injury
- hiss: a hissing sound used to express disapproval or dislike
- cuddling: to hold somebody or something close for affection
- squeezing: to press somebody affectionately
- teasing: to annoy or irritate a person or an animal
- wagging: to move part of the body to and fro
- slurp: a loud sucking sound

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What do you think pets would say if they could talk?
- What does a cat like done to its fur? Back?
- What does a dog like done to its back?
- Has your animal ever nuzzled up to you? Is its nose cold or wet?
- What should you not do to an animal's tail?
- How should you approach an animal? Fast or slowly?
- How can you tell when a pet doesn't want to be bothered?
- Does your pet like to be cuddled? Does it sleep with you?
- What happens when a dog is glad to see you?



Do

Pet-Friendly Fun

Bring a child loving animal to class and teach them the staying safe tips and warning signs of animals as described in the back of this book.